

this legislation, not due to a lack of merit, but because many members of this body have sought relief for an equally vital visa issue—the H-2B Visa program.

The H-2B Visa program was designed to provide access to nonimmigrant, temporary workers for seasonal needs when no American workers can be found. These foreign workers offer short-term assistance and return to their home country at the end of their season. H-2B visas are capped at 66,000 per year. This still does not meet the needs for small businesses. In fact, the 2009 cap was met within the first week of January.

I have previously called upon the leadership of the Congress to address this urgent need in districts like mine across the country. To the detriment of so many of the small businesses that are the engine of our economy, this issue is ensnared in the broader immigration debate and no action has been taken to date.

In the absence of such a consensus, I respectfully oppose this bill and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting and calling for a vote on H.R. 1136, the "Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act," introduced by my friend from Michigan, Mr. STUPAK.

During these difficult economic times, we cannot leave our small businesses with few options and even fewer workers.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. JESSIE WADE, ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mrs. Jessie Wade, a long time Michigan resident and teacher, upon her 100th birthday.

Jessie Wade was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 6, 1909 to a large family of two brothers and three sisters. In 1926, she graduated from Southwestern High School and subsequently worked her way through college. Jessie attended Wayne University for two years and in 1931 graduated from Michigan State Normal College, currently known as Eastern Michigan University. In the midst of the Great Depression, Jessie struggled to find fulltime employment. Coming from a family of educators, Jessie devoted her life to Detroit-area students as a teacher with the Detroit Public Schools through World War II and until her retirement. Jessie married Starr Wade on April 7, 1931 at the Dearborn Inn and spent 49 wonderful years with him until his passing. Jessie and Starr were blessed with one daughter, Linda, who tragically passed away on November 3, 1945 leaving her three children in their care.

Jessie Wade is a life-long educator and a fulltime grandmother and great-grandmother to her three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jessie has lived for the past twenty year in the Silver Village retirement community in Livonia, Michigan. She has been an active and founding member of Grosse Pointe Congregational Church. Although she had to give up driving at the age of 96, Jessie has remained a very independent and active member of her community.

Madam Speaker, admired by all who know her, Jessie Wade has enriched and inspired

everyone she has touched throughout her life. As Jessie celebrates her 100th birthday today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring Jessie for her loyal service to her community and the country.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF BETTY MCCRARY MCCORQUODALE

##### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Jackson and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Betty McCrary McCorquodale and pay tribute to her memory.

A lifelong resident of Jackson, "Miss Betty" graduated from Jackson High School and attended Florida State University before marrying Joseph Charles McCorquodale Jr. In World War II, her husband served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and during the time they were stationed in Big Spring, Texas Air Force Base, "Miss Betty" was selected as the Beauty Queen of the Cadet Corps. She also served as president of the Cadet Wives Club.

In 1959, Mr. McCorquodale was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives. "Miss Betty" was actively involved during his 23 years in the Alabama Legislature. She helped organize the Legislative Wives Club and served one year as its president. She was also instrumental in having replicas of the original gas lights installed in the lobby of the entrance to the Alabama Capitol building as well as in the House chamber.

"Miss Betty" was a founding member of the Jackson Woman's Club and served as its first president. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Jackson where she taught Sunday school classes.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Betty McCrary McCorquodale will be dearly missed by her family—her husband of 67 years, Joseph Charles McCorquodale Jr.; their two sons, Joseph Charles "Mac" McCorquodale III and Gaines Cowan McCorquodale; their four grandchildren, Elizabeth M. Percy, Joseph Charles McCorquodale IV, Martha Virginia "Ginny" Stewart, and Mary Helen Marks; seven great-grandchildren; her sister, Jean McCrary Payne; nieces, nephews; and other relatives—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

#### THE INCREASED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH INCREASED STUDENT SUPPORT ACT

##### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act.

With the No Child Left Behind Act dramatically increasing the pressure on teachers and administrators to improve test scores, too often we forget that students' academic success is also dependent on a number of other factors. For example, as students transition into adulthood, they experience social, emotional and behavioral needs that if unmet, impede academic success.

These diverse needs often cannot be met by already over-burdened teachers. Students need school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists. Yet, in low income neighborhoods, students lack these essential resources. Nationwide, the average student to counselor ratio is 475 to 1, nearly double the suggested 250 to 1 ratio. In California, the ratio is a dismal 920 to 1, the worst in the nation.

To help improve student performance and increase graduation rates, this bill would authorize funding to form partnerships between under-served school districts and higher education institutions that train school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists. By increasing school support staff, we can address children's out-of-the-classroom needs so that when they're in the classroom, they can be safe, engaged, and achieving their full potential. The students of low-income neighborhoods deserve the same opportunities as others for a productive learning environment.

Today's children are the economic engine of our future. We must make certain all children have the opportunity to develop academically and socially, and all schools have the resources to achieve this goal. Academic success does not come when children are hungry, bullied, traumatized, or depressed. We need more personnel to help address and alleviate these issues so that all children, no matter what their economic situation is, can focus on math, reading, and science. This is why I urge my colleagues to invest in our children and our future by supporting the Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act.

#### COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICERS

##### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a letter I sent to the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) following the successful rollout of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

These sweeping reports reflect the hard work of hundreds of human rights officers in Washington and abroad. I would like to thank, by name, the DRL staff people without whom this report would not have been possible. Specifically the editorial staff of the Country Reports Team consisting of: Editor in Chief Stephen Eisenbraun; Office Directors: Bruce Connuck, Kay Mayfield, and Michael Orona; Senior Editors: Jonathan Bemis, Douglas B. Dearborn, Daniel Dolan, Jerome L. Hoganson, Patricia Meeks Schnell, Julie Turner, and Rachel Waldstein; Editors: Naim Ahmed, Sabrina